

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 COME-00 SIG-02 /019 W

----- 116781

R 260931Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8729

UNCLAS TOKYO 6114

PASS OCA/DOS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN

SUBJECT: POST RELATIONSHIPS WITH U.S. CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE
ABROAD

REF: STATE 94266

1. BECAUSE OF (A) THE ENORMOUS ROLE OF ECONOMICS IN THE U.S./JAPAN RELATIONSHIP, (B) THE OUTSTANDING GROUP OF AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN WHO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP FOR THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN JAPAN AND (C) THE EMBASSY'S TOP PRIORITY TO ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL MATTERS, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THIS EMBASSY AND THE A.C.C.J. IS COMMONLY REGARDED BY ALL TO BE NOT ONLY GOOD BUT EXCELLENT.

2. REGULAR TOP LEVEL MEETINGS BETWEEN US, MONTHLY OR MORE OFTEN, ARE THE PRACTICE; INTERLOCKING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS ARE COMMON; JOINT PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS IS FREQUENT; PROMOTION OF U.S. TRADE IS SHARED; EXPOSURE TO TRAVELLING TOP U.S. GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS OFFICIALS, RESPECTIVELY, IS ARRANGED ON A SHARED BASIS, AND A GENERAL ATMOSPHERE OF COMFORT AND RESPECT BETWEEN CHAMBER AND EMBASSY OFFICIALS PREVAILS. ACCORDINGLY, WHILE ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT ALWAYS EXISTS, NO BASIC CHANGE IN THE PATTERN OF OUR RELATIONSHIP HERE IS DESIRED OR EXPECTED BY EITHER
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PARTY.

3. ONE CIRCUMSTANCE HAS BEEN REFLECTED, HOWEVER, IN OUR MANY MEETINGS THAT WE BELIEVE IS DESERVING OF YOUR ATTENTION. THE CHAMBER HERE, AND OTHER APCAC CHAMBERS, ARE PUZZLED AND AT TIMES DISTURBED BY THE LOW LEVEL OF ATTENTION AND PRIORITY THEY BELIEVE THE U.S. CHAMBER IN WASHINGTON GIVES TO INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AFFAIRS. OFTEN THIS ATTITUDE IS REFLECTED WITH RESPECT TO NATURE OF ATTENTION GIVEN THERE TO INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY MATTERS INVOLVING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. SOME OF THIS ATTITUDE IS ATTRIBUTED HERE TO DISTANCE AND COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS BUT BEYOND THAT THE FEELING PERSISTS THAT THE U.S. CHAMBER HAS NOT PROPERLY RECOGNIZED THE INCREASING LEVEL OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ACTIVITY AND NEEDS SOMEHOW TO GIVE IT WEIGHT AND ATTENTION APPROPRIATE TO ITS RECENTLY EXPANDED LEVELS.

4. WE REPORT THIS ATTITUDE NOT BECAUSE WE FEEL IT MAY BE WHOLLY NEW TO YOU, BUT BECAUSE IT MAY BE REFLECTED THERE IN INDIRECT WAYS NOT INSTANTLY DISCERNABLE. FOR EXAMPLE, YOU MAY SEE REQUESTS MADE OF DOS BY OVERSEAS CHAMBERS THAT SHOULD OR PROPERLY GO TO THE U.S. CHAMBER. WHEN THIS OCCURS IT MAY NOT BE BECAUSE OF A MISTAKEN PERCEPTION OF THE DOS FUNCTION, BUT BECAUSE OF LOW CONFIDENCE IN THE U.S. CHAMBER'S RESPONSIVENESS.

5. WE HOPE THIS IS HELPFUL.
HODGSON

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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